

# Gwinnett Parent Coalition to Dismantle the School to Prison Pipeline

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# What is the School to Prison Pipeline?

**The school to prison pipeline (STPP) is a national trend wherein children are funneled out of public schools and into the juvenile and criminal justice systems.**

# How does this happen?

**Under the banner of "zero tolerance," schools increasingly are relying on inappropriately harsh discipline and, increasingly, law enforcement, to address less serious instances of school misconduct among even the youngest students.**

# Who is affected?

- ❖ **Many of these children have learning disabilities or histories of poverty, abuse or neglect.**
- ❖ **Nationally, minority students are suspended at rates of two to three times that of other students.**
- ❖ **Minority students with disabilities are particularly vulnerable.**

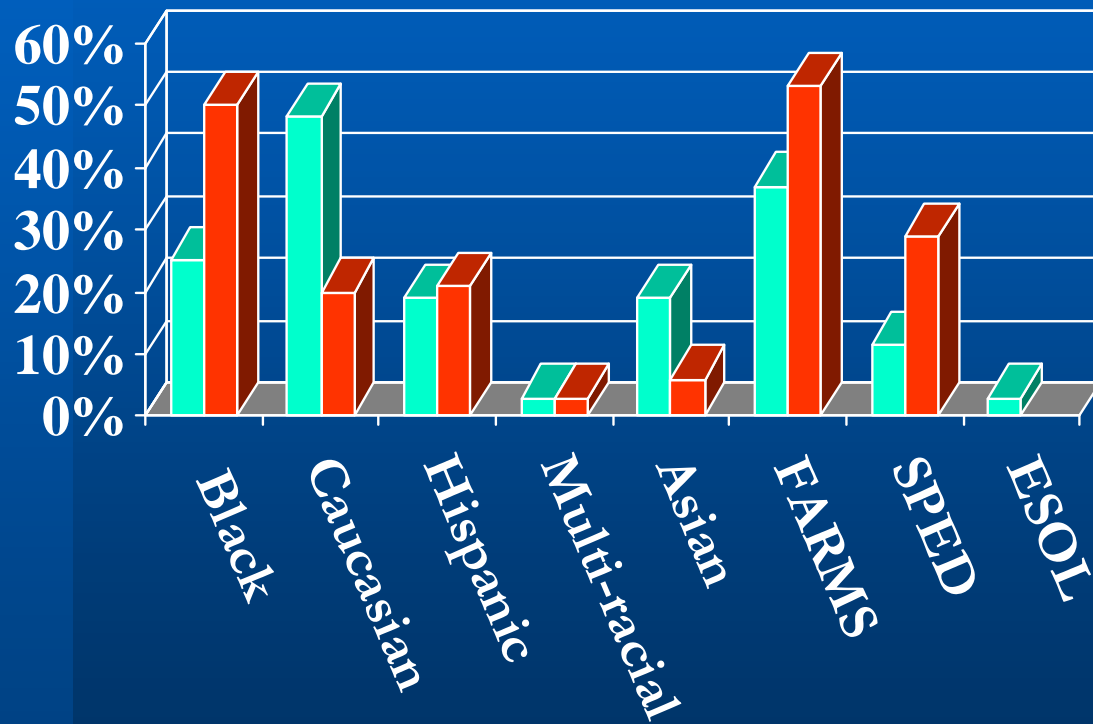
# Why does this occur?

## Some possible causes:

- ❖ Schools, while citing safety, have created zero tolerance policies that equate to zero sense.
- ❖ An incentive is created for schools by NCLB for schools to push out low performing students in order to boost their overall test scores and avoid facing federal penalties.
- ❖ Cultural miscues between teachers, and students and parents of diverse socioeconomic and racial backgrounds.

# What does the pipeline look like in Gwinnett?

## Demographics



■ GCPS Wide 2005-2006 ■ GIVE 2005-2006

# Vision

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**The vision of the Gwinnett Parent Coalition to Dismantle the School to Prison Pipeline is to lead a parent-driven, community-centered partnership approach to identifying and dismantling the school to prison pipeline in Gwinnett County; including parent/community education, district monitoring and accountability, and recommending national best practices.**

# Goals

The coalition will build and maintain relationships with community leaders by:

- ❖ *Increasing public awareness of the injustice that all of our children face within the educational system as it relates to the pipeline and the judicial process.*
- ❖ *Promoting policy changes through data accountability and fact based incident reporting which serve to support and strengthen the dismantling of the student to prison pipeline in Gwinnett County.*

# Next Steps

- ❖ **Public Awareness Campaign (Jan 08)**
  - press release
  - select a focus cluster
  - publish information
- ❖ **Data Collection to demonstrate Pipeline effects**
- ❖ **Build relationships and expand partner members**

# Back to School Kick Off

## ❖ Educational Series:

### ❖ Build Cluster Community Awareness

- ❖ How zero tolerance builds the Pipeline and what you can do about it - Cluster by Cluster Educational Series

### ❖ Focus on the School Resource Officer

- ❖ The Good, The Bad & The Ugly - Educational Series

## ❖ Policy Series:

### ❖ Accountability for GIVE

- ❖ Partner with county to define & track measurable outcomes for students attending GIVE locations

# Who is involved nationally ?

The Harvard Civil Rights Project, NAACP and the ACLU are just some of the organizations involved in research and initiatives to focus on this trend.

The ACLU STPP initiative seeks to address some of these issues by:

- ❖ Getting stakeholders involved.
- ❖ Helping local communities to build coalitions.
- ❖ Supporting grassroots efforts.

# Grassroots Partners

## ❖ Local and State Partner Organizations

- Rho Kappa Lambda Alumni Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
- NAACP of Gwinnett & Georgia
- ACLU of Georgia

# Rho Kappa Lambda Alumni Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.



**For over 100 years, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. has supplied voice and vision to the struggle of African-Americans and people of color around the world.**

**Alpha Phi Alpha has stood at the forefront of the African-American community's fight for civil rights through leaders such as: W.E.B. DuBois, Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Edward Brooke, Martin Luther King, Jr., Thurgood Marshall, Andrew Young, William Gray, Paul Robeson, and many others.**

**True to its form as the “first of firsts,” Alpha Phi Alpha has been interracial since 1945.**

# ACLU of Georgia

**The American Civil Liberties Union is a national non-partisan organization with more than 280,000 members dedicated to preserving and defending the principles embodied in the Bill of Rights.**

**Locally, the *School to Prison Pipeline Project* falls under the new Organizing Department; one of its functions is to build Statewide Action Team (SWAT) and is led by Benetta Standly. SWAT builds community participation in the preservation of rights and freedoms across Georgia.**

# NAACP Gwinnett Branch

**For more than ninety five years, the NAACP built and grew on the collective courage of thousands of people. People of all races, nationalities and faiths united on one premise, that all men and women are created equal. It is the nation's oldest civil rights organization.**

**The Gwinnett Branch continues this tradition with a membership that reflects the diversity of Gwinnett while implementing positive programs and having a great impact on the community.**

# More Information

- ❖ [www.acluga.org/schooltoprison.html](http://www.acluga.org/schooltoprison.html)
- ❖ [www.gwnaACP.org](http://www.gwnaACP.org)
- ❖ [www.alphaphialpha.net/](http://www.alphaphialpha.net/)
- ❖ [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org)